



MATWATCH

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

FLA. LEGISLATION SET FOR INTRO OCT. 8

TALLAHASSEE FL---A bill is scheduled to go to the floor of the Florida House of Representatives Oct. 8 to propose regulation of pro wrestling in the Sunshine State.

Janet C. Clark, legislative analyst for the Florida House Committee on Regulated Industries is preparing the legislation. Clark has interviewed a host of people from inside the wrestling industry and the mat media.

Clark has told MATWATCH the state has a number of serious concerns about business and ethical practices of promotions in Florida, which include alleged use of steroids.

MATWATCH has learned the investigation leading to the legislation includes a direct link of steroids to at least one major promotion, though that group will not be publicly named before the bill goes to the floor.

Several insiders predict the bill stands a weak chance of passage, as lobbyists for both the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling are threatening to pull out of the state if a regulatory agency is created. The bill reportedly will call for not only mandatory drug testing, including for steroids, before vents in the state.

Until the late 1960s, Dr. Harry Ratano was an official ringside physician assigned to Tampa area matches but the position was not required by Florida law.

HENNIG EXPECTED OUT AT LEAST A YEAR

STAMFORD CT---Though the extent of his recent injury is unspecified, Curt Hennig is expected to be out of action for at least one year from the World Wrestling Federation.

MATWATCH was unable to make contact with the WWF office late Friday for confirmation but unofficial reports are Hennig's back injury is more serious than originally believed.

WWF officials are opting to end references to Hennig's Mr. Perfect character. No future television comments will be made as to who Bret Hart defeated for the Intercontinental belt.

Yet Another Tragedy

CHRIS VON ERICH: A STORY FOR TEXAS MEDIA

DALLAS---The call came shortly after 12:30 a.m. Friday morning. Kenneth Utley, a veteran follower of the Texas wrestling scene bore the grim news.

The 20-year-old son of Jack (Fritz Von Erich) and Doris Adkisson, known to Texas mat fans as Chris Von Erich, was dead. A fourth of six brothers to meet death in youth, police reports depict an untimely end more gruesome than the earlier deaths of brothers Mike and David in the 1980s. An apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

The tragedies which have made the Von Erichs wrestling's version of the Kennedys have been documented not only in mainline newspapers but by the underground wrestling media and freelance writer Irv Muchnick. But the way the Dallas media covered the death of Chris is testimony to the mystique which the family name still holds in the Metroplex area, years after the sons peaked as major mat draws.



Steve

Beverly

KDFW-TV, the CBS affiliate, broke the story at 10:30 p.m. Sportscaster Ted Dawson, who had worked with the Von Erichs at charity events, told the initial sketchy details of Chris being pronounced dead at 10:23 p.m. after being taken by medical helicopter from the family ranch to a hospital in Tyler. KXAS cut in with a bulletin during THE TONIGHT SHOW and WFAA, the ABC station, soon followed. But KDFW stayed with the story tenaciously during its hourly overnight newscasts. A reporter was dispatched to the hospital for live reports.

The story continued to lead the Dallas TV newscasts all the way into Friday afternoon. Not until one of the later overnight cut-ins did confirmation come that foul play was not involved. KDFW reported at 4 a.m. the original 911 call was for investigation of a suicide.

During the CBS station's early-morning newscasts, reports told how Kevin met an investigator at Highway 279 and led him to Chris's body. Later in the day, WFAA fed a two-minute clip from the "Von Erich Family Album" home video to the ABC Southwest newsfeed, followed by a second two-minute piece detailing the events of the previous evening, including interviews with people close to the family and law enforcement authorities. Dawson offered a number of personal observations on his Friday evening sportscast.

On the print side, The Associated Press had to issue at least two "kills," to correct errors in their initial dispatches. One erroneously stated that Kerry had died a drug overdose in 1987 and a second feed listed Kevin as the brother who died in 1984. The third dispatch clarified the story.

A story fed to a number of big-city newspapers by the DALLAS TIMES-HERALD reported the Sportatorium had been closed and wrestling had not been held in the building for more than a year.

COLUMBUS LEDGER-ENQUIRER columnist Richard Hyatt, monitoring the wire in Georgia, asked if the death of Chris was such a major story because of the family's legend or because of the bizarre history behind the sons' deaths. I answered, "Probably both." Most major media outlets no longer acknowledge

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STEVE BEVERLY

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suicides unless the deceased is a noted personality, or related to one.

Saturday, the newspaper stories went into more depth. The MORNING NEWS corrected an earlier story which depicted David's death as resulting from an "inflamed intestine."

Susan Morrison of the TIMES-HERALD interviewed Capt. Rock Ellis of the Van Zandt County Sheriff's Department, who said: "Chris Von Erich left a note which stated, 'My family is not to blame and I'm sorry.'" Morrison wrote of Kevin finding Chris's body 150 yards from the family home in Edom TX. According to the report, Chris had been recently told he would have to go back on an asthma medication which would cause him to lose the muscle tone necessary to compete.

The MORNING NEWS quoted a former World Class spokesman, Stan Hovatter: "He (Chris) had an unbelievable reputation to live up to." Former World Class host Bill Mercer: "There was a magic, a charisma. After David died, it began to slip. They (the Von Erichs) were like a great shooting star that suddenly goes up and begins to fade out."

On Ric Carter's WRESTLING TALK radio show in Las Vegas Saturday night, a Van Zandt County deputy said Chris had used a 9mm pistol to end his life.

Thursday night wrote another chapter in a family biography which almost hauntingly appears woven in perpetual tragedy. Speculation will be endless as to what was the ultimate string which snapped inside Chris Von Erich. But the only thing which really matters is another life is gone, the victim of a private doom. By comparison, what seems trivial is everything else in pro wrestling.

**MATWATCH
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

MATWATCH ends weekly publication Jan. 27, 1992. Subscriptions are still accepted at the following rates:

(U.S./CANADA) \$6 for 5 issues, \$12 for 11.
(OVERSEAS) \$9 for 5 issues, \$18 for 11.

A list of prices through closeout date is available on page 6.

GIFT OFFER: Through Oct. 1, you may give a 5-issue gift set for \$3 and receive two bonus issues yourself.

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ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

Pinfail Profile**A FINAL LOOK AT US**

The beauty of any form of opinion journalism is its role as a catalyst in stirring thought. Whether you have shared or disputed my views on the state of the craft in mat newsletters, hopefully we have succeeded in helping you examine how this genre can become a more respected and quality practice.

Saturday night on Las Vegas radio's WRESTLING TALK, veteran ring followers Mike Tenay, Rick Carter, Bill Kunkel and I kicked the subject around for a quarter-hour. Accordingly, I'd like to summarize some of my key views and make a few proposals for the future:

*****SHOULD NEWSLETTERS BE CRITICAL?:** Certainly, when perspective is called for, which is when organizations and executives do not demonstrate efforts to give fans and viewers the best possible product for their television time and entertainment dollar. But such criticism should be disciplined and be fair enough to examine the budget, political and contract limitations involved. It's easy to hit a golf ball but it's not easy to measure the wind conditions, shot lengths and club selection necessary to get a ball close to the pin.

*****IF NEWSLETTERS ARE THE WATCHDOG OF WRESTLING, WHO'S GOING TO WATCH THE NEWSLETTERS?:** Easy answer. The readers. If we deliver a responsible product and to the best of our abilities, with barriers which exist to open communication in the industry, provide accuracy, they will support us. If we don't, they'll hold us accountable and invest their reading money elsewhere.

*****IS IT A NEWSLETTER'S JOB TO PRAISE?:** In opinion columns, yes. Just like it's our job to offer critical views when justified, it is equally important to single out good, positive performances and practices. It certainly is no sellout for any group or individual to be praised. As the executive editor of THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL in Memphis recently told students at the University of Tennessee-Martin: "All too often, young journalists become part of the vulture brigade which feels it has to spend its time nailing someone to the wall rather than providing responsible depth and perspective on issues. It is no sin to find that issue which reflects a positive influence on our lives."

*****WHAT SHOULD QUALIFY A PERSON TO BE A RESPONSIBLE EDITOR?:** More than just having an opinion, a typewriter, computer, or access to a printer or copy machine. Hopefully, a beginning newsletter editor is trained in attribution, how to cultivate sources, proper gathering of information, skillful ability to analyze issues from all sides (hard enough for experienced people), thorough knowledge of libel laws, maturity to handle criticism which will come, a grasp that copying of newspaper articles and pictures for profit without the consent of the originating publication is a violation of copyright law, the discretion to keep a critical view from exploding into an unwarranted scathing personal attack, plus an understanding that a newsletter is now merely a play toy.

*****WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST CRITICAL TO FOCUS ON TODAY?:** That's up to the individual editor. My own view is with the increasing pressures wrestling executives are under to "top themselves," with shock value angles and storylines, it is essential to hold them accountable when much of their product, particularly in the most-viewed organization, is tailored to children (who often watch unsupervised). How many children experienced nightmares after seeing that cobra angle with The Ultimate Warrior? Or were frightened by the attempt to seal the Warrior in a coffin? Conversely, it's equally important to examine our own values when some viewers actually believe it's a great story to see men hitting women as happens so frequently on the Memphis show; or to look at what it says about us when, as happened in 1989, Ricky Steamboat was mercilessly booed by many single adult males when he attempted to portray the virtues of the family unit as part of his NWA world title storyline.

(In response to many readers' requests, in our Christmas double issue, I will publish an exhaustive list of available newsletters and let them make their own decisions as to the good and otherwise. To all editors: please send me your up-to-date addresses, rates and frequency of publication).

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VIDIOTS

Sept. 9-15

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Bushwhackers d. Paul Perez/Roy Garcia; (SPECIAL REPORT) Sid Justice/Undertaker on Savage-Liz reception; Big Bully Busick d. Jim Powers; Davey Boy Smith d. Mike Fury; Beverly Brothers d. Ron Cumberland/Kerry Davis; (GUEST) Hulk Hogan; Skinner d. Mark Thomas; (SUMMER SLAM/I-C TITLE) Bret Hart d. Curt Hennig to win belt; Warlord d. Scott Summer. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Mountie d. Ross Greenberg; (UPDATE) Piper-Heenan-Flair belt angle; I.R. Schyster d. Tony Diamond; Natural Disasters d. Brian Donahue/Fury; Jim Neidhart d. Brooklyn Brawler; Undertaker d. Bill Pierce; (GUEST) Hogan w. same interview as CHALLENGE. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Ricky Steamboat d. Col. Mustafa; Bushwhackers d. Dwayne Gill/Barry Hardy; (CLIP) Cobra attack on Randy & Liz at reception; (CLIP) Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" Hercules d. Phil Apollo; Neidhart d. Brawler; (UPDATE) Roddy Piper spits on Ric Flair's belt & Bobby Heenan; Busick d. Powers; (GUESTS) Paul Bearer/Undertaker taunt Sid Justice; (GUEST) Flair, roundly booed, taunts Hogan & Piper; Kerry Von Erich d. I.R.S. by DQ when I.R. slams Kerry into ref; Jimmy Snuka d. Pat Tanaka; (SUMMER SLAM/6-MAN) Steamboat/Von Erich/Smith d. Power & Glory/Warlord; Warlord d. Thomas; (GUESTS) Legion of Doom; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake w. Ted DiBiase/Sherri; Bossman d. Wayne Evans; (SUMMER SLAM/I-C TITLE) Hart d. Hennig. POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - [RERUN]: Denise Storm d. Alma Alvarez; Reggie Bennett d. LaGata; Heidi Lee Morgan/Comrade Orga d. The Beast/Cheryl Day; Terri Power d. Nasty Cat; Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Bad, Black & Beautiful; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. BB&B. NO RATING.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - Ian Weston d. Dave Johnson; (SEGMENT) Full Force said out w. knee surgery; Firecat d. Rick Ryder; (SUNCOAST FLA. TITLE) Superstar d. Jumbo Baretta to retain belt when Penelope Paradise powders Jumbo in the eye; Tom Sawyer vs. Al Hardeman in progress as show ends. NO RATING.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: {OPEN} Patriot surrenders North American belt because Al Perez's feet entangled in ropes during original title match; {N.A. CHAMPIONSHIP} Patriot d. Perez to win held-up belt when Eddie Gilbert decks Perez by error; John Tatum/Rod Price d. American Breed; Chaz d. El Diablo; (FINALE) Gilbert mouths off, Perez shows & Eddie dashes for stands.

[MAIN EVENTS]: Gilbert d. Reno Riggins; Gary Young/Jeff Gaylord d. Tatum/Price; Davis Brothers d. American Breed; Steven Dane d. Steve Simpson; Other winners: Scott Anthony, Maulers. DRAW-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Mon.] Condensed version of Global TV tournament. Patriot d. Buddy Landell in finals; [Tue]: Condensed version of Global tag team tournament. Chris Walker/Simpson d. Rip Rogers/Scott Anthony in finals; [Wed.]: Condensed version of light hwt. tourney: Lightning Kid d. Jerry Lynn in finals. NO RATING.

[Thu.]: Walker d. Sweet Daddy Falcone; Axl Rotten d. Chaz; Stan Lane d. Ray Evans; (NEWS CENTER) Scott Hudson on "history" of Global; Brian Adias/Young d. Doug Sommers/Kenny the Stinger; Patriot d. Tug Taylor; (ANGLE) Norman reverts back to M. Singh; Adrian Street d. Rip Rogers by DQ when Singh runs in; Simpson d. El Banderero. NO RATING.

(AAWF) - [MAY RERUN]:
[AAWF TITLE] Big O d. Michael J. Starbuck to win belt; Six-man cage finale. NO RATING.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) -

T.C. Carter d. Mikey Zee; Steve Lawler d. Steve Prichard; (GLOBAL) Scott Anthony d. Rick Garren; (CLASSIC/UWF HOUSTON) Chris Adams/The Viking double DQ vs. Bill Irwin/Terry Taylor; (INTL/JAPAN) Antonio Inoki d. Bam Bam Bigelow. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - [MID-SOUTH COLISEUM/6-MAN] Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller/Ronald P. Gossett IV d. PYTs/Chris Love; (STUDIO ANGLE) Love decks, chokes host Michael St. John. Eddie Marlin breaks it up but Chris becomes host. Marlin returns, decks Love but PYTs ambush Eddie. Jarrett/Fuller save, clean house w. PYTs/Love. Jerry Lawler becomes host; Jarrett/Fuller d. Awesome Kong/Billy Joe Travis by DQ when PYTs/Love run in. Marlin saves, tosses chair to Jeff, who bashes Randy Rhodes & cleans house; St. John returns; (MSC) Lawler/Tony Anthony d. Eric Embury/P.Y. Chu Hi by DQ when Travis runs in. Jeff saves; Chu Hi d. Dave Dowdy; (ANGLE) Lawler exposes Chu Hi as Phil Hickerson. Wild 12-man, 7-minute melee erupts. Bill Dundee, Samantha trade lashes w. belt; (SEGMENT) Dutch Mantel debuts "Stan Hansen Hotline;" Dundee d. Tim White by DQ when Bull Pain/Samantha run in. Sam puts belt to Bill but Bill gets it away, pushes Sam, whips her & chases her & Bull; PYTs d. Todd Morton/Kevin Christopher by DQ when Jarrett/Fuller run in. Jeff bashes Rhodes into desk. POWERSLAM-PLUS...tremendous brawls.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Rick Steiner/Bill Kazmaier d. Jim Boss/Sam Cody; Johnny B. Badd d. Jimmy Hodge; Bradstreet d. Joey Maggs; Steve Austin d. T.C. Carter; (REPLAYS) 1. Ron Simmons-Lex Luger saga. 2. Barry Windham's face rubbed on floor by Luger; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Sting box sagas; (From WCW/U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE) Patriots d. Freebirds to win belts; Patriots d. Arn Anderson/Larry Zbyszko by DQ for over-top. RESTHOLD.
[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Tom Zenk d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker; Enforcers d. Maggs/Terry Bronson; (CONTROL CENTER) Paul E. w. Sting-Cactus saga; Cactus Jack d. Johnny Meadows; Dustin Rhodes d. Bob Cook; (REPLAY) Barry's face rubbed; Windham/Simmons d. Boss/Rip Rogers; (ANGLE) As Paul E. interviews "terrible trio," Barry & Ron run in and pound Luger/Race/Hughes until Hughes/Race recover & hold Ron for Lex to bash Simmons w. chair; (CLASH XVI) Enforcers attack Kazmaier w. weights & d. Steiner/Kaz for WCW world tag title; (From OMNI/U.S. TITLE) Sting d. Austin in finals to win belt; (REPLAY) Sting-Cactus saga; Cactus double countout vs. Zenk; (REPLAY) Windham/Simmons-Luger/Race/Hughes saga; (6-MAN) Freebirds/Bradstreet d. Richard Morton/Thomas Rich/Terrence Taylor by DQ when Morton creams Brad off top w. computer. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Taylor d. Mike Graham when Morton comes off top as ref distracted. Morton/Rich stomp Graham after but Mike rallies, throws Taylor over top, puts figure-4 on Richard; (WCW) Windham/Simmons vs. Luger/Race/Hughes angle; [DANGER ZONE] Paul E. w. Simmons; Simmons d. Anderson; Abdullah the Butcher d. Hodge; Cactus Jack d. Lynn Fields. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(UIW) - Steve Valentino/A.J. Fritzoid d. Rikki Lane/Ramblin' Rich; Diamond Dave Casanova d. Johnny Lawler by DQ when Jeff Collette runs in & Lawler/Collette spike piledrive Dave; Agent Orange d. Corey Roberts. RESTHOLD.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - [1986] Jerry Blackwell double DQ vs. Col. DeBeers; [1982] Buck Zumhofe/Brad Rheingans d. Rene Gou-

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. FILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

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let/Bobby Heenan; [1985/AWA WORLD TITLE] Rick Martel d. Jumbo Tsuruta. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - Joe Savoldi d. Zoom; Mike Starr d. Zap; Curly Moe d. Boss Hogg; Ray Oddyssey d. Tasmaniac; (PWI PRESS CONF.) Bill Apter w. Million \$ Babies. BOMB.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: P.N. News d. Boss; (WNN) Gordon Solie on Luger-Simmons saga; Diamond Stud d. Sandlin; Johnny B. Badd d. Johnny Rich; (ANGLE) Before Curtis Hughes-Zenk match, Harley Race baits Tom. Luger comes to ring, says if Tom will apologize for saying Lex turned his back on friends, he'll "allow (Tom) to walk." Tom refuses, Lex ambushes & piledrives him. Windham/Simmons chase heels; (REPLAY) Sting-Cactus saga; Bobby Eaton d. Snake Watson. RESTHOLD.
[WORLD WIDE]: No report.

LINE OF THE WEEK

1. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Ric Flair is Dom Perrignon. Hulk Hogan is like a warm six-pack of generic beer." 2. Joe Pedicino/Jim Cornette, LPWA: (JP) "Bambi and Hosaka are holding their own." (JC) "I don't think you can hold your own on television. I think it violates some kind of FCC requirement." 3. Ric Flair, PTW: "We decided if the money was right, that Ric Flair, instead of hollering to get inside the doors of the WWF, ought to take that huge step and stand right in front of the doors, knock as hard as he could." 4. Pedicino/Craig Johnson, GLOBAL: (JP) "The fans certainly love Chris Walker and they don't love Sweet Daddy Falcone. I wonder why." (CJ) "That could be a Question of the Week." 5. Jim Ross/Paul E. Dangerously, PH: (JR) "The One-Man Gang is a big fan of Braves announcer Skip Caray. Rumor is he has his room full of Skip Caray pictures." (PED) "Lots of crazy people do." 6. Hawk, PTW: "They may be Natural Disasters but we're naturally nuts." 7. Cornette, GLOBAL: "These Dallas cowgirls are more cow than girl." 8. Cornette, LPWA, on Cheryl Day: "I wonder if she got free porkchops with that haircut." 9. Masked Superstar, SUNCOAST PRO: "Charlie Fields has been on a seafood diet. Everything he sees, he eats. I know it's an old joke but thank you very much." 10. Caller/Paul E. Ross, JIM ROSS SHOW: (C) "Would you consider managing the York Foundation?" (PE) "If she paid me enough, I'd manage you." (JR) "Yeah, even without a coupon."

11. Pedicino/Cornette, LPWA: (JP) "You really need to get into athletics more like I do, Jim." (JC) "Athletics? You blow up jogging your memories." 12. Jerry Lawler/P.Y. Chu Hi, WMC: (JL) "Your name is nothing but Big Fat Phil Hickerson." (PY) "You're gonna expose everything, aren't you?" 13. Hickerson, WMC: "Lawler, you're no king. You're no blueblood. The only thing blue in you is from a blue-tick hound." 14. Pedicino, LPWA, to Cornette: "You remind me of a friend of mine, Sam Cortez, in San Angelo. He works in a cattle yard. He's a bull shipper." 15. Superstar, SP, on Frankie Reyes: "He better call 555-CHIROPRACTOR." 16. Ross, PH: "Johnny Unitas is being pounded by the IRS like Maggs is being pounded by Badstreet." 17. Superstar, SP, on Reyes/Henry Raines: "He's nothing. You know what it feels like to be nothing, don't you, Henry?" Paul E., WCW: "Terry Bronson better consult his Uncle Charles for help." Penelope Paradise, SP: "Justice will be served...as Sid says." 18. Michael St. John, WMC, to Chris Love: "I'm just an announcer. You---don't---"

threaten---me!" 19. Roddy Piper, SOW, on I.R.S.: "He's an Ichabod Crane-lookalike." 20. Ross, WME: "My colleague, Paul E. Dangerously, thinks Abdullah has physical characteristics which resemble that of sports announcer Skip Caray."

21. Piper, WWF, to Vince McMahon: "You're talking about Legion of Doom like they're Hanky and Panky, the two dwarfs."

22. Axl Rotten, UIW, on opponents: "If words were weapons, they'd all be the UIW heavyweight champion."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Flair, PTW: "For 10 years, it's been two names---Hogan, the WWF champion; and Ric Flair, the REAL world champion." 2. Hulk Hogan, WC: "As far as contenders, Ric Flair is the cream of the crop." 3. Boris Malenko, SP, on Paradise: "If she acted like a woman, she'd be treated like one."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Flair, PTW: "Recognized as ONE of the greatest wrestlers in the world? Is that the way you're introducing me?" 2. Johnson, GLOBAL: "Doesn't Axl Rotten have purple hair? Where do you get purple hair dye?" 3. Hawk, PTW: "Hey, Nasty Boys, now that you lost your belts to us, how you gonna hold your pants up?" 4. Paradise, SP, to Raines: "Do you have peanut butter in your ears?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE WINNING PACKAGE (Flair on himself/Heenan). 2. MR. DONUT (Superstar on Full Force). 3. THE PAN-Z MAN (Diamond Dallas Page on Tom Zenk).

BEST PICTURES - 1. PTW, Flair's entrance. 2. GLOBAL, Cornette yelling right in Ray Evans' nose. 3. PTW, Closing shot of Flair's belt draped across his robe. 4. WCW, Luger's smirk as he walks away from bashing Simmons w. chair. 5. WCW, Zenk over-top cross body on Cactus. 6. WCW, Cactus hipbuster from top rope onto Zenk. 7. WCW PRO, Eaton rubbing Watson's face into ringpost. 8. WMC, Travis bashing Lawler w. guitar. 9. WMC, midshow brawl.

ENGLISH LESSON - Tommy Rogers, SP: "...a lot of people who WASN'T there didn't see it."

BLOOPER AWARD - Harley Race, WCW PRO: "Tom Zenk, you come out and shout this innoowendoo." Isn't it INNUENDO?

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Rogers, SP: "...thorn in my side." 2. Pedicino, LPWA: "...good for the goose is good for the gander." 3. Page, WCW PRO: "...signed, sealed and delivered." 4. Hogan, WC: "...tip of the iceberg."

BOO AWARDS - 1. USWA/WMC, for Dundee-Samantha angles. Even though it's egged on by Sam, these men-beating-women storylines have become a Memphis cliché. 2. UIW affiliate in Baltimore, for erratic scheduling of show.

SUNCOAST OFFER FOR MATWATCHERS

BRADENTON FL---SUNCOAST PRO WRESTLING's first Florida tag team tournament includes a special offer for MATWATCH readers.

Owner/promoter Henry Raines is offering two complimentary passes to the Sept. 28 show at the Manatee Civic Center if MATWATCHers send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: SUNCOAST PRO WRESTLING, 5748 14TH ST. W., BRADENTON FL 34207.

Raines is also offering a videotape of the three August shows which included the confrontations of Penelope Paradise and The Superstar vs. Boris Malenko and referee Frankie Reyes.

The tapes are available for \$17.50 from the same address.

It Finally Happens

VINCE BASHED IN FLAIR-PIPER ANGLE

OTTAWA, CANADA---A former WWF wrestler said over the weekend, "Vince (McMahon) has always wanted to get in an angle." He has.

Monday night, before a confrontation between Ric Flair and Roddy Piper (taped for the weekend of Sept. 28-29), McMahon, Piper and Randy Savage appeared to record a rare live commentary.

In the Flair-Piper angle, insiders say Flair suckered Piper and decked him with the old NWA/WCW championship belt. As Piper attempted to recover and went for a chair, Flair reportedly ducked and Vince was bashed on the noggin.

McMahon, whose closest involvement in an angle came when he assisted in carrying Hulk Hogan out after the 1989 Earthquake angle, was removed on a stretcher.

OTHER VON ERICH NOTES: Kerry canceled his weekend WWF dates to fly home for Chris's funeral. Kerry had missed shows last weekend after passing blood in his kidneys.

AT THE SPORTATORIUM: It may be called the Globaldome but Friday at GLOBAL MAIN EVENTS tapings, a moment of silence was held for Chris, along with the traditional 10-bell ringing.

A SICK MOMENT: I'll never understand some minds. As Craig Johnson shared memories of Chris in last summer's USWA shows, some ringsiders yelled, "Suicidal midget!" And some were laughing and mocking during the 10-bell ceremony.

CLASH NUMBERS: The Rick Steiner-Bill Kazmaier vs. Arn Anderson/Larry Zbyszko finale at CLASH XVI scored a 4.2 rating and 6.7 per cent share of audience (2.42 million homes). By one-tenth of a point (below the Flair-Eaton June topline), it was the lowest-rated CLASH main event ever.

OTHER FIGURES: The CLASH-by-quarter ratings are listed in the next column. Positive note: the show grew in audience consistently until the final quarter-hour. But it began with the weakest lead-off yet at 2.6/4.8. The Simmons-Luger contract angle peaked the show at 4.3/6.7 (2.47 million homes).

CENTER STAGE RETURN: The place was sold out for Monday night's tapings. And lots of positive talk about the remodeling of Center Stage for WCW since the last taping there.

UNCONFIRMED: Barry Windham has reportedly agreed to an extension on his WCW pact but that was not verified at deadline.

A STINGER OF A DEAL?: Negotiations are continuing to renew Sting's contract, which expires next March. But reports of him demanding \$2.1 million over three years seem far-fetched. With fiscal pressures on WCW, I find it hard to believe the company would even clean ear wax over that kind of deal.

SEPTEMBER HEAT: Lots of anger in WWF circles over the Paul E./Ross lampooning the Flair belt angle on WPIX Sept. 7. And some WCW Galoob toys spots have slipped into WWF shows on local breaks in some larger markets.

CLASH XVI BY THE QUARTERS

8:05-8:15	2.6/4.8	9:15-9:30	3.9/6.0
8:15-8:30	3.1/5.4	9:30-9:45	3.9/6.0
8:30-8:45	3.4/5.7	9:45-10:00	4.1/6.3
8:45-9:00	3.4/5.7	10:00-10:15	4.3/6.7
9:00-9:15	3.7/5.8	10:15-10:35	4.2/6.7

GLOBAL WARFARE: Another crowd of 700 Friday at the Globaldome. Biggest pop when Chaz beat Lightning Kid for the light heavy title but the reign will be short-lived (see page 6).

MASSIVE FLIP: The Kid (Sean Waltham) pulled off a Jushin Liger-style front flip onto Chaz from the top rope onto the floor which wowed 'em.

THE TURN: Bill Irwin became babyface after a skirmish with John Tatum and Rod Price. Gary Young and Jeff Gaylord saved.

LAW AND ORDER: Irwin will now become Sheriff Bill Irwin and Global event coordinator Ron Ames will play Deputy Barney.

POST-TURN: Tatum & Price went to a 10-minute draw vs. Renegade Warriors, which continued as a brawl.

ANOTHER BRAWL: Young & Gaylord vs. the Maulers (ex-Royal Family) ended in an eight-way brawl with Tatum/Price and the Warriors joining. Skandor Akbar came in with a chair and Sheriff Bill countered with his whip.

SATURDAY IN MEMPHIS: The WMC show was the most explosive in months. Though the characters aren't as exciting as they used to be, the mid-show brawl was classic Lawler. The angle with Michael St. John was indicative why Jerry is worth the money for any group to hire on either play-by-play or color.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Lawler/Tony Anthony faced off against Eric Embry/Phil Hickerson in a lumberjack match; in a six-man: Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller/Ronald P. Gossett IV vs. PYTs/Chris Love; and a hair (Dutch Mantel) vs. mask (Dragonmaster) match.

ALSO MONDAY: Bill Dundee vs. Bull Pain; Koko B. Ware vs. Reggie B. Fine; Billy Travis vs. Daddy O; and M.C. Slammer vs. Awesome Kong.

NICE TOUCH: The WMC show has beefed up graphics for the Memphis cards, picturing opponents in trading card frames.

HALLOWEEN HAVOC ADDITIONS: P.N. News/Big Josh vs. The Creatures (if they come out with arched backs to the Notre Dame fight song, we'll know something's up); Johnny B. Badd vs. Jimmy Garvin; and Michael Hayes vs. Van Hammer.

CLASS ACT: Jim Ross cut his voiceover Friday for Sunday's MAIN EVENT and noted about Chris Von Erich's death. Ross also focused on the tragedy for part of his Sunday WSB-AM show.

NWF ACTION: In two Midwest NWF shows last Monday and Tuesday, Wendi Richter retained her ladies "world" title vs. Candi Divine and a female Angel of Death.

THANKS, GUYS: It was a pleasure to guest on WRESTLING TALK with Rick Carter and Bill Kunkel Saturday night in Las Vegas and I hope listeners in that area will support this show.

WCW Hits 1991 High
CLASH WINS; RIC BOOSTS PTW RATING

Despite its finish as the lowest-rated TBS special live card ever, **CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XVI** captured the top spot in the Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending Sept. 9.

But the WWF debut of Ric Flair boosted **PRIME TIME WRESTLING** to the top spot among weekly series and **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** scored its highest rating of the year on TBS.

CLASH, as documented last week, scored a 3.7 rating and 5.9 per cent share (see **MATWATCHING** for quarter-hour breakdowns) in 2.1 million homes.

Flair's first appearance on a WWF program propelled **PTW** to a 3.2 rating and 4.9 share, considered exceptionally strong opposite the Washington-Dallas Monday night NFL game on ABC, which finished as the top-rated network program of the week.

Meanwhile, **WCW** posted its top Saturday of the year with a mix of **CLASH** clips, a Sting box angle, the Patriots winning the U.S. tag title and the Luger-Simmons world title match from the Omni. **WCW's** two hours scored a 3.0 and 6.8 share, the latter tops for Saturday night in at least six months.

WCW MAIN EVENT maintained its previous week's 2.4, though dropping in share to a 5 opposite U.S. Open tennis and the NBC NFL afternoon game. **POWER HOUR** jumped to a 1.7, up 21% from the week before, headlined by P.N. News-One Man Gang.

Nielsen did not issue a rating for **ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING** because USA Network's U.S. Open coverage forced **ALL-AM** into different time period airings on the two coasts.

Overnight figures for Thursday's **CLASH XVI** replay were not available but will be listed in next week's numbers.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 9	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
CLASH XVI (TBS 9/5)	3.7/5.9	2.1 million	5.0/8.4
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/9)	3.2/4.9	1.85 million	2.6/4.4
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 9/7)	3.0/6.8	1.75 million	2.9/6.2
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/8)	2.4/5.0	1.4 million	2.3/4.3
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 9/7)	1.7/7.5	989,500	Pre-Em.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/8)	N/A	N/A	2.4/7.2

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According to Ross
JIM HERD ELECTED NWA PRESIDENT

ATLANTA---According to a report on Sunday night's **JIM ROSS SHOW** on WSB-AM, World Championship Wrestling, Inc., executive vice president Jim Herd has been elected president of the National Wrestling Alliance.

Ross revealed the decision was made Friday in a meeting in Charlotte and said details will be told this weekend.

The loose consortium which still comprises the virtually-dormant NWA include Jim Crockett, Japan's Shohei Baba, ex-NWA president Bob Geigel, Portland's Don Owen, Puerto Rico's Carlos Colon and the Murnick brothers (formerly partners with the Crockett organization).

Ross said: "It's very likely you'll begin to hear World Championship Wrestling as being sanctioned by the National Wrestling Alliance." TBS dropped the NWA moniker last year when advised of potential legal problems in keeping the name.

A Herd election virtually squashes any sanction by the NWA group of Flair as world champion.

PATRIOT RETAINS TITLE; LIGHTNING RE-STRIKES

MARIETTA GA---The Patriot (Del Wilkes) retained the Global North American heavyweight title Sunday night with a victory over Stan Lane before 750 at the Cobb County Civic Center. But the light heavyweight reign of Chaz ended in two nights as The Lightning Kid (Sean Waltham) regained his belt.

The Patriot's win came in 12:33 when Georgia All-Star commissioner Gordon Clements removed a steel object from Lane's hand and Patriot schoolboyed Lane. Waltham regained his title using the Ric Flair feet-on-ropes finish but a "home video" of the move will be used in a future Global TV angle.

In a semifinal bout on the 11-match show, Terry Gordy pinned Axis the Demolisher (Bill Eadie). Lady X (Peggy Lee Leather) retained the LPWA belt in a DQ loss to Bambi. In a Georgia tag team title affair, the Blazers (Ray Lloyd/R.D. Swain) defeated Brute Force to win the titles.

After the card, Global president Joe Pedicino fired Joel Deaton and Billy Black, former All-Asian tag champs. Deaton and Black, who were not available for comment, were angered over having to lead off the show against Chic and Rick Donovan. According to Pedicino, "Deaton grabbed the mike and said how thankful he was Global slipped them onto the card and would show the fans they deserved to be on more than an opening match." Talent coordinator Eadie reprimanded the team Black and Pedicino followed with the dismissal.

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